

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-16.(cancelled)

17.(original): An acoustic code conversation apparatus, in which a fixed number of samples of an acoustic signal are adopted as one frame, for obtaining a first LPC code obtained by quantizing linear prediction coefficients (LPC coefficients), which are obtained by frame-by-frame linear prediction analysis, or LSP parameters found from these LPC coefficients; a first pitch-lag code, which specifies an output signal of an adaptive codebook that is for outputting a periodic sound-source signal; a first algebraic code, which specifies an output signal of an algebraic codebook that is for outputting a noisy sound-source signal; and a first gain code obtained by pitch gain, which represents amplitude of the output signal of the adaptive codebook, and algebraic codebook gain, which represents amplitude of the output signal of the algebraic codebook; wherein a method for encoding the acoustic signal by these codes is assumed to be a first acoustic encoding method and a method for encoding the acoustic signal by a second LPC code, a second pitch-lag code, a second algebraic code and a second gain code, which are obtained by quantization in accordance with a quantization method different from that of the first acoustic encoding method, is assumed to be a second acoustic encoding method; and wherein acoustic code that has been encoded by the first acoustic encoding method is input to said apparatus for being converted to acoustic code of the second acoustic encoding method; said apparatus comprising:

code separating means for separating codes of a plurality of components necessary to reconstruct an acoustic signal from the acoustic code that is based upon the first acoustic encoding method;

code conversion means for converting the separated codes of the plurality of components to acoustic codes of the second acoustic encoding method;

code correction means for inputting the separated codes to said code conversion means if a transmission-path error has not occurred, and inputting codes, which are obtained by applying error concealment processing to the separated codes, to said code conversion means if a transmission-path error has occurred; and

means for multiplexing the codes output from respective ones of said code conversion means and outputting an acoustic code that is based upon the second acoustic encoding method.

18.(original): The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein if a transmission-path error has occurred in the present frame, said error correction means estimates an LPC dequantized value of the present frame by an LPC dequantized value of a past frame, and said code conversion means finds, from the estimated LPC dequantized value, the LPC code in the present frame that is based upon the second acoustic encoding method.

19.(original): The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein if a transmission-path error has occurred in the present frame, said error correction means executes the error concealment processing by adopting a past pitch-lag code as the pitch-lag code of the present frame, and said code conversion means finds, from the past pitch-lag code, the pitch-lag code in the present frame that is based upon the second acoustic encoding method.

20.(original): The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein if a transmission-path error has occurred in the present frame, said error correction means executes the error concealment processing by adopting a past algebraic code as the algebraic code of the present frame, and said code conversion means finds, from the past algebraic code, the algebraic code in the present frame that is based upon the second acoustic encoding method.

21.(original): The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein if a transmission-path error has occurred in the present frame, said error correction means estimates a gain code of the present frame by a past gain code, and said code conversion means finds, from the estimated gain code, the gain code in the present frame that is based upon the second acoustic encoding method.

22.(original): The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein if a transmission-path error has occurred in the present frame, said error correction means finds a pitch gain G_a obtained from a dequantized value of past pitch-gain and finds an algebraic codebook gain G_c obtained from a dequantized value of past algebraic codebook gain, and said code conversion means finds, from this pitch gain G_a and algebraic codebook gain G_c , the gain code in the present frame that is based upon the second acoustic encoding method.